

**Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo**  
**Friday, August 24, 2012**

**From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE):**

1. RITEAF forms due September 10; LEAs asked to update links to [technology plans](#) – **Action Item**
2. RIDE to provide [Interim Assessments](#) computer software; training registration still open
3. [Certification process](#) may take up to 8 weeks; LEAs asked to let educators begin school year while process is under way
4. RIDE releases grant application for developing, piloting [performance-based compensation](#) systems
5. New resources available to support full implementation of [educator evaluations](#)
6. [Summer Academies](#) come to successful conclusion, make-up Academy scheduled

**Other:**

7. Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island provides opportunities for [Education at Sea](#) for teachers, students

---

**Action Item Calendar**

September 10: [IMS Roles](#) Form due  
September 10: RITEAF forms due (see below)  
November 1: [Presidential Scholar](#) nominations due

---

**From RIDE:**

1. **RITEAF forms due September 10; LEAs asked to update links to technology plans – Action Item**

Please see this notice from our Office of Statewide Efficiencies:

The Rhode Island Telecommunications Educational Access Fund (RITEAF) forms have been updated based on feedback from throughout the year. These forms are required

for RIDE to apply for ERate funding on behalf of the consortium of schools and libraries in Rhode Island receiving RITEAF telecommunications lines. These forms must be returned no later than **September 10** in order for RIDE to file the appropriate ERate paperwork on your behalf and for your schools to receive line allocations for the 2013-14 school year.

The updated forms are located at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/intech/RITEAF/RITEAF3applying.aspx>.

Please be sure to mail your original signed documents. Please do not use outdated forms!

Also, please log into eRIDE and update the URL that points to your LEA technology plan. Technology plans are used by many RIDE staff members and must be kept current. RIDE will cross-check technology plans with bandwidth upgrade requests.

Frequently asked questions can be found on the RIDE website as well as in the forms and accompanying paperwork. Technology directors and those responsible for ERate paperwork should be made aware of the updates and due dates. Questions can be directed to Karen Cooper ([karen.cooper@ride.ri.gov](mailto:karen.cooper@ride.ri.gov)).

## **2. RIDE to provide Interim Assessments computer software; training registration still open**

Please see this announcement from our Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum:

For those schools implementing the Interim Assessments online, software for student computers is now available for installation. Information regarding how to install this software is available [here](#). The NIMBLE Online Assessment Kiosk software is required to be on student computers prior to the test administration in November, but the software should be installed in October at the latest so that students can practice using the online testing system.

Also, as a reminder, registration is open for the Interim Assessments user training. Two training opportunities for school and district leadership are available for the Interim Assessments, although participants need to attend only one session.

Dates and Location:

Date: September 20

Time: Registration begins at 8 a.m., training from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Crowne Plaza Warwick, 801 Greenwich Ave. 02886

Registration: Register on eRIDE, at:

<http://www.eride.ri.gov/WorkshopReg/viewWorkshop.aspx?workshopid=537>

Date: September 26

Time: Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., training from 1 – 4 p.m.

Location: Crowne Plaza Warwick, 801 Greenwich Ave. 02886

Registration: Register on eRIDE, at:

<http://www.eride.ri.gov/WorkshopReg/viewWorkshop.aspx?workshopid=538>

Note: Training is open to identified district and school personnel who have been selected by leadership. Those not sure whether they have been identified as an Interim Assessment trainer should check with their principal or Central Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Brown ([jessica.brown@ride.ri.gov](mailto:jessica.brown@ride.ri.gov) or 222-8253).

**3. Certification process may take up to 8 weeks; LEAs asked to let educators begin school year while process is under way**

Please see this message from our Office of Education Quality and Certification:

We have received an unusually high volume of certification requests this summer. Many people who were issued certificates in 2010 and 2011 as well as those with 2012 expiration dates are having their certifications expire all at once. Due to the unusually high volume, it takes 6 to 8 weeks from the time an application is received to the time it is entered into the certification system. The certification office is unable to verify the status until it has been entered into the certification system. For individuals or LEAs that monitor certification status, once an application has been processed the status will change to "eval/review" while the request is waiting to be reviewed. Please allow your educators to begin the school year, reminding them that paperwork needs to be received in the certification office by the end of the day on **August 31**.

We understand that this causes frustration. Please know that the certification staff is working as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience as we work through this.

**4. RIDE releases grant application for developing, piloting performance-based compensation systems**

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

On Wednesday (August 22), RIDE released a competitive-grant application for LEAs interested in applying for the performance-based compensation grant competition. The grant application is available at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/CompReform.aspx>.

As a result of feedback received from LEAs, the deadline for submitting an application for funding has been extended to **October 10**. A number of resources as well as materials from a recent information session are available on our website. If you have any questions about this competition, contact Lisa M. Foehr at [lisa.foehr@ride.ri.gov](mailto:lisa.foehr@ride.ri.gov).

**5. New resources available to support full implementation of educator evaluations**

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

To support schools and districts fully implementing rigorous educator evaluations, RIDE has posted a handful of new resources.

Updated Student Learning Objective samples that reflect the most current guidance can be found at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/SLO.aspx>.

Rhode Island Model training PowerPoints, including a one-hour and a three-hour overview for teachers, can be found at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Training.aspx>

For the Educator Performance and Support System (EPSS), how-to guides, webinars, and responses to frequently asked questions can be found at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/EPSS.aspx>

Worksheets (in Word) for Student Learning Objectives, Professional Growth Plans, Professional Improvement Plans, and the optional Self-Assessment can be found at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/Training.aspx>

## **6. Summer Academies come to successful conclusion, make-up Academy scheduled**

Please see this message from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

Today (August 24) marks the conclusion of the fifth and final week of the Summer Academies. Over the past two months, RIDE has hosted 23 Academies for personnel evaluating teachers and 8 Academies for personnel evaluating building administrators, attended by more than 900 Rhode Island educators. This unprecedented effort would not have been possible without the consistent excellence of the Academy facilitators, most of whom will be returning to their schools and districts this fall. We are eternally grateful for their dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm.

We are equally grateful to everyone who attended the Summer Academies. A consistent and palpable trend across all of the Academies was a commitment to “making it work.” Fully implementing a new evaluation and support system is incredibly challenging, but the potential positive impact on student outcomes is profound. As the 2012-13 school year begins, we look forward to supporting and learning from each other as we collectively strive to ensure that we have great teachers in every classroom and great leaders in every school.

As a reminder, RIDE has scheduled a make-up Academy for both personnel evaluating teachers and personnel evaluating building administrators. Both Academies will take

place next month at the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative and will cover the exact same content as the Summer Academies.

Evaluators can register by going to the Workshop Calendar in eRIDE, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/applications/ridecalendar.aspx>

**Other:**

**7. Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island provides opportunities for Education at Sea for teachers, students**

Please see this message from the Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island organization:

The Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island nonprofit organization is seeking to provide opportunities for many Rhode Island students to experience the inspiration of education at sea aboard the Oliver Hazard Perry, through the Education at Sea program. The organization also runs a summer-at-sea program for teachers. For further information about the organization, see:

<http://www.tallshipsrhodeisland.org/wordpress/?p=399>

and

<http://www.ohpri.org/>

**RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:**

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/fieldmemos/default.aspx>